

BROWNFIELD SITE ASSESSMENT GRANT PROGRAM

Authorization: s. 292.75, Wis. Stats., and ch. NR 168, Wis. Admin. Code.

Budget: 2003-2004 Fiscal Year = \$1,700,000
2004-2005 Fiscal Year = \$1,700,000

Objective: This program was created to assist local governmental units in assessing environmental contamination and conducting preliminary assessment actions at eligible brownfield sites or facilities.

An eligible brownfields site or facility is defined as one or more contiguous industrial or commercial facilities or sites with common or multiple ownership that are abandoned, idle, or underused, the expansion or redevelopment of which is adversely affected by actual or perceived environmental contamination.

Eligibility: Local governmental units -- including cities, villages, towns, counties, tribes and redevelopment, community development, or housing authorities -- are eligible to apply for this grant. The applicant cannot have caused the environmental contamination at the site. The person who caused the environmental contamination must be unknown, unable to be located or financially unable to pay for grant activities.

Level of Assistance: Available funding is divided between small and large grants: 70% of funds are allocated to small grants (between \$2,000 and \$30,000); 30% are allocated for large grants (between \$30,001 and \$100,000). A single applicant may be awarded no more than 15% of all funds available in each fiscal year.

Priorities: If sufficient funds are not available to fund all eligible, complete applications, the DNR is required to score and rank eligible, complete applications and award points in accordance with the criteria set forth in ss. NR 168.13(2), (3), and (4), Wis. Admin. Code. The criteria are applied on a statewide basis. Grant funding is offered to the highest ranked applicant, then continuing down the ranked list until all funds in a year are allocated.

Eligible Types of Projects: Grants from this program reimburse local governments for up to 80 % of the cost of the following eligible activities:

- ◆ Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments and ch. NR 716 site investigations;
- ◆ Demolition of structures, buildings, or improvements, including necessary asbestos abatement; and
- ◆ Removal of underground petroleum product storage tank systems and hazardous substance storage tank systems, and removal of abandoned containers.

Applications: At least one application cycle will be offered per fiscal year, if funding is available. A fact sheet, application, and instructions may be obtained from the DNR. Please see the Bureau for Remediation and Redevelopment's web site for information on the next application cycle.

History: The Brownfields Study Group, a state-wide advisory task force, recommended the creation of the Brownfield Site Assessment Grant (SAG) program in their 1998 final report. The State Legislature first authorized \$1.45 million for the SAG program in the 1999-2001 State Biennial Budget. For the 2001-2003 State Budget, \$3.4 was allocated for the SAG.

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